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REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 34-52 are allowed and that claim 14 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this early indication of allowable subject matter. Also in the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 and 15-33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,276,821 issued to Pastrick et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons stated below.

By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 11-13 without prejudice, added new claims 53 and 54, and have amended claims 1, 14, 15, 44, and 47 to more clearly define the present invention. More specifically, the amendment to claim 14 is to place it in independent form, and the amendments to claims 15, 44, and 47 are made to correct typographical errors. Claims 1-54 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-13 and 14-33 as being anticipated by Pastrick et al.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Pastrick et al. does not disclose a door illuminator light source that is disposed behind a mirror so as to project light through the mirror. In the Office Action, at page 4, the Examiner contends that Pastrick et al. discloses such a feature in Figs. 1-5. However, neither light sources 30, 32, 32a nor 32b are positioned behind the mirror so as to project light through the mirror. Although the embodiment shown in Fig. 43 includes a turn signal light 818 positioned behind the mirror 816, the depicted rearview mirror assembly does not include any door illuminator light source, let alone one that is positioned behind the mirror so as to project light through the mirror.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Pastrick et al. Claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, are also not anticipated by Pastrick et al. for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

With respect to dependent claim 4, which depends from independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Pastrick et al. fails to teach or suggest that the rearview

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mirror assembly further comprise a blind spot indicator light source for indicating when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle.

In the Office Action on the top of page 3, the Examiner contends that in Figs. 1-5, Pastrick et al. discloses a blind spot indicator light source (216) while referencing column 9, lines 52-54. First, it is noted that there is no reference numeral 216 indicated in Figs. 1-5. The first appearance of reference numeral 216 is made with respect to Figs. 21-23. In reviewing the relevant disclosure relating to Figs. 21-23 as well as column 9, lines 52-55, which is quoted below, it is clear that reference numeral 216 refers to a turn signal light and not to a blind spot indicator. In particular, column 9, lines 52-55 of Pastrick et al. recites "signal light 216 is adapted to direct light into the blind spot of the driver and, preferably, provides a light forwardly and rearwardly of the vehicle so that vehicles approaching the vehicle may observe the signal light." It should be noted that signal light 216 is intended as a turn signal light which is activated when the driver turns on his turn signal. The light from the turn signal light 216 is projected towards the blind zone of the vehicle so that any vehicle within the blind zone may be warned that the driver may be about to turn into their lane. Thus, this is an indicator for drivers of other vehicles and it is not intended to provide any indication to the driver as to whether or not there is a vehicle within the driver's blind spot. Note, for example, column 10, lines 3-9.

Claim 4, does not merely recite a light that projects light into a blind spot of a vehicle. Instead, claim 4 recites "a blind spot indicator light source for indicating when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle." As described in the present specification, this is a light directed to the driver of the vehicle which indicates that there is another vehicle within the driver's blind spot. A turn signal light such as light 216, on the other hand, may be activated at any time the driver turns on the turn signal regardless of whether or not there is an object detected in the blind spot of the vehicle. Thus, turn signal light 216 of Pastrick et al. is incapable of when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle, as recited in claim 4.

Claim 5, which also depends from claim 1, also recites "a blind spot indicator light source for indicating when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle." Accordingly, claim 5 is allowable for this additional reason.

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With respect to claim 6, which depends from claim 1, the Examiner refers on page 3 of the Office Action, to Fig. 43 and contends that this shows that at least one of the light sources (818) is disposed behind mirror (816) so as to project light through the mirror. However, Fig. 43 only shows a turn signal light (818) and does not show that the mirror assembly shown in Fig. 43 includes a door illuminator light source configured to project light towards the door handle and/or locking mechanism of the vehicle. Thus, the embodiment in Pastrick et al. referenced by the Examiner does not disclose the claimed combination of features.

With respect to claim 8, which depends from independent claim 1, Applicants submit that Pastrick et al. does not disclose that any door illuminator light source is activated during both a door illumination lighting mode and a turn signal lighting mode. In the Office Action, the Examiner references Figs. 1-5 and column 7, lines 39-44, in support of the allegation that Pastrick discloses this feature. However, Figs. 1-5 do not disclose when the respective light sources are activated. In column 7, lines 39-44, Pastrick et al. states "each of the security light 30 and signal light 32 includes a light source 60 and reflector 62 behind a lens 64 (Fig. 8). Light source 60, reflector 62 and lens 64 are designed for security light 30 to project a pattern 66 of light, such as white light, through a clear, non-filtering lens, in order to establish a security zone around the vehicle (Figs. 10-12)." Nowhere in this passage, however, does Pastrick et al. disclose that the security light 30 is activated during a turn signal lighting mode. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 8 is allowable for this additional reason. Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 8 and thus are also allowable for this additional reason. Moreover, claim 10 recites that a second door illuminator light source is provided and wherein the control circuit sequentially activates the door illuminator light sources and the turn signal light source during a turn signal lighting mode. Here, the Examiner again references Figs. 1-5 and column 7, lines 39-44 of Pastrick et al. As noted above, however, Pastrick et al. does not disclose that security light 30 includes two light sources or that light source 30 is activated during a turn signal lighting mode. Thus, claim 10 is allowable for this additional reason.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants rewritten allowable claim 14 in independent form while cancelling claims 12 and 13 and amending claim 15 to

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depend from claim 14. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 12, 13, and 15 have been rendered moot.

With respect to independent claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that Pastrick et al. does not disclose a light module for a vehicle rearview mirror assembly where the light module comprises both a blind spot indicator for indicating when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle, and a door illuminator configured to project light at a portion of a door of the vehicle. As noted above, with respect claim 4, Pastrick et al. does not disclose a blind spot indicator provided in a rearview mirror assembly. Accordingly, independent claim 16 is not anticipated and is allowable over Pastrick et al. Claims 17-21, which depend from claim 16 are thus also allowable for these reasons.

With respect to independent claim 22, Applicants submit that Pastrick et al. fails to teach or suggest a rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising a housing, a mirror positioned in the housing, a turn signal light, a door illuminator light, and blind spot indicator light for indicating when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle. As noted above with respect to claims 4 and 16, Pastrick et al. does not disclose a rearview mirror assembly including a blind spot indicator light that indicates when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle. Accordingly, independent claim 22, as well as claims 23-31 which depend therefrom, are allowable over Patrick et al.

With respect to independent claim 32, Applicants submit that Pastrick et al. fails to teach or suggest a light module for vehicle rearview mirror assembly where the light module comprises a blind spot indicator for indicating when an object is detected in the blind spot of the vehicle, and a turn signal light. Applicants submit that, as discussed with respect to claim 6, 16, and 22, Pastrick et al. fails to teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, independent claim 32, as well as claim 33 which depends therefrom, are patentable over Pastrick et al.

New independent claim 53 is directed to a rearview mirror subassembly for a vehicle comprising a mirror, a turn signal light, and a blind spot indicator light for indicating when an object is detected in a blind spot of the vehicle. Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 53 is allowable for at least those reasons stated above with respect to claims

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4, 16, 22, and 32. New claim 54 depends from claim 53 and thus is allowable for at least those reasons stated above with respect to claim 53.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention, as defined in the pending claims, is allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner's reconsideration and timely allowance of the claims is requested. An Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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